(d) The criteria prescribed by NABARD for sanction of financial assistance *inter-alia* includes :

(i) Schemes which are found technically feasible, economically viable and bankable are eligible for NABARD refinance assistance;

(ii) The quantum of refinance depends on the purpose and the agency;

(iii) The eligibility of banks to draw refinance from NABARD under schematic lending is linked to their recovery performance also; and

(iv) NABARD may consider providing special exemption from/relaxation in the eligibility criteria for extending refinance to banks for thrust areas such as watershed development projects, 100% export oriented schemes, wastelands' development projects on merits of the case and on the basis of specific requests from the banks.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

Purpose	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto 31.8.96)
Minor Irrigation	729.8	536.5	455.8	153.1
Rural Electrification Corpn.	1340.3	2199.8	1275.5	—
Land Development	55.2	32.7	106.4	1.4
Farm Mechanisation	4112.3	4585.5	4654.8	2312.5
Plantation & Horticulture	754.8	1368.9	553.2	215.1
Dairy Development	2870.0	3183.0	3662.8	1143.8
Poultry	650.7	1006.3	1624.4	148.5
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	2818.4	3365.9	3470.6	1343.1
Fishery	693.1	689.8	674.0	10.2
Sericulture	151.1	95.5	136.1	79.4
Storage/Market Yard	2.8	10.4	37.7	—
Forestry	151.0	145.2	88.9	27.7
Seed	—	93.1	36.7	0.2
Agro-Industries	168.1	71.3	547.4	0.5
Biogas	233.0	163.1	117.7	31.9
IRDP	—	1531.3	1160.2	514.1
Non-Farm Sector	6676.0	3401.8	4394.4	3369.1
Others	—	3338.9	3610.7	64.0
Total	21406.6	25819.0	26607.3	9414.6

[Translation]

Obara Carpet Industry

5753. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES to pleased to state :

(a) whether the Obara Carpet Industry of Bihar which had received President's award is lying closed from quite some time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance for the revival fo this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Government is not aware of the fact that the Obra Carpet Industry of Bihar is lying closed from quite some time. It is estimated that there are nearly 275 looms operating in and around obra.

(b) For development of Obra carpets in the State of Bihar, the Government of India has set up a Carpet Weaving Training Centre at Kharanti, P.O. Obra which endeavours to upgrade the skills of carpet weavers in the region. Since its inception in 1987, 165 trainees have been trained so far and they are gainfully employed in the same trade. The exporters participate in various international trade fairs through the Carpet Export Promotion Council for boosting exports of Obra carpets among others.

[English]

Merger of Nationalised Banks

5754. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal for merger of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such proposals and objective of such merger ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Production and Export of Mica and Mica Paper

5755. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Mica and Mica Paper in the country and the total quantity exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any export of the above items declined during the Eighth Plan in comparison to Sixth and Seventh Plan;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of those items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The details of total production of mica and Mica paper, total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned during the last three years are given in the Statement attached.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Technological obsolescence, collapse of demand in CIS and other East European countries, synthetic substitutes and the operational problems faced by MITCO before its merger with MMTC resulted in the decline of exports of mica and mica products.

(d) Government formulates commodity-wise export strategies having regard to products and markets in concert with the concerned export promotion councils. Due input and promotional support is thus extended to the Mica and Mica Paper Industry towards boosting exports.

STATEMENT

Production and export of Mica and Mica Paper

Unit : MT

Year	*Production in India (Crude & Waste)**	*Mica Paper***
1991-92	5957	79.00
1992-93	3997 (P)	77.00
1993-94	3113 (P)	123.00
1994-95	N.A.	107.00
1995-96	N.A.	85.00

* Source : IBM Nagpur

** Production of Mica Division of MMTC (Formerly MITCO)

Total quantity exported and foreign exchange earned

Year	*Quantity (in MT)*	*Value* (in Rs. Lakhs)
1992-93	29930	4168
1993-94	33899	4332
1994-95	33116	4397
1995-96	7443	1181

Source : MMTC Limited

Credit in Foreign Currency Scheme for Jewellers

5756. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has withdrawn concessional rates of interest for post-shipment finance and abolished the post-shipment credit in foreign currency scheme in regard to the gems and jewellery exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the RBI/Government have received representations from the gems and jewellery exporters in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of RBI/Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that effective from February 8, 1996, interest rate on post-shipment export rupee credit for a period beyond 90 days and upto six months from the date of shipment has been freed and banks are allowed to determine the rate of interest on such credit on their own. The interest rate on post shipment credit upto 90 days continues to be 13% per annum. The scheme of post-shipment export credit denominated in US Dollars (PSCFC) was terminated with effect from February 8, 1996 as in the context of the sizeable forward exchange premia, the effective rate of interest on this facility had become negative and was discouraging normal repatriation of export proceeds. These were general policy changes and not restricted to any specific commodities like gems and jewellery.

(c) and (d). RBI had received representations from the Geme and Jewellery Export Promotion Council in February and March 1996 *inter alia*, regarding interest rate on PSCFC. The rationale of the measures has been explained to the Council by the RBI.

Non-Conventional and Non-Polluting Industries

5757. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce non-conventional and non-polluting Industries in Agra in view of the industrial vacum being created after the Judgement of the Supreme Court to close down polluting industries including brick and kiln industry;

(b) if so, the action initiated by the Union Government so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any non-polluting industry that has to be set up by private entrepreneurs in Agra will have to be set up by them in accordance with law and subject to necessary permission from the Pollution Control Boards and the observations and directions/orders of the Supreme Court. Entrepreneurs are free to take investment decisions and implement them within the parameters indicated above.

Foreign Owned Mutual Funds

5758. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of foreign-owned mutual funds that have set up business in India and the number of Indian partners amongst them;